

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Urals)
SUBJECT War Production at Atomgrad

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DATE OF

1. Atomgrad was built in 1943 by German prisoners-of-war. It is situated on the eastern slopes of the Ural Mountains between the cities of Chelyabinsk and Magnitogorsk, about midway on a line between the two cities.
Comment: This would place it at about 54°12'N, 60°10'E. To the west of it are the Ural Mountains; to the east, the city of Troitsk.
2. Atomgrad consists of two parts: the inner city, in which the industrial enterprises are located; and the outer city, in which residences for Russians and free market shops are located. The inner city is separated from the outer one by a barbed wire fence ring which has seven entrances guarded by seven wooden guard towers. Guard patrols are on duty along the barbed wire fence day and night. The population of the inner city, consisting mostly of German PWs and civilian internees, is not allowed to leave that area. Only persons provided with a stamped pass and a white arm band are authorized to leave the inner city for such purposes as making purchases in the free market shops.
3. The city is built for a population of slightly more than 40,000. All structures in the city are of white brick. The residential quarters consist of four-storyed buildings.
4. The vast majority of the population consists of German PWs and civilian internees; internees represent the larger part. In addition, "not too high a number" of Russians punished with exile are living and working in Atomgrad. These three categories are forced to live in the inner city. Russian administrative and guard personnel have their residences beyond the barbed wire, in the outer city. The population of the inner city is subject to considerable fluctuation. If PWs or civilian internees become sick or are released, they are replaced by others brought either from elsewhere in Russia or from the Russian Zone of Germany. Many of the Russians forced to live in the inner city are former occupation soldiers from the Russian Zone of Germany who are being punished for misconduct. Among the German civilian internees, there is now a considerable number of persons who were deported from the Russian Zone of Germany. The entire population of the inner city is divided into two groups, regardless of nationality:

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- a. Graduate engineers, highly rated technicians, and high administrative personnel (directors). These live in residences of their own and have higher salaries and better food than the others.
- b. The rest of the population, living with 3 or 4 persons in one room, are paid and fed according to job and efficiency.

Persons belonging to the first group draw up to 500 RM (sic) per month; an unskilled worker draws 190 RM (sic) per month. Salaries are paid in a kind of scrip money or purchasing coupons.

5. The city is situated on a secondary single-track railway which branches off from a main line, which in turn passes through Moscow. The single-track line ends at Atomgrad. The railway station is at the northwest corner, just outside the inner city. The entire north side of the inner city is occupied by supply and storage buildings. The entire eastern side of the inner city is occupied by a huge rectangular factory, roughly 800 x 500 meters, built of white bricks and provided with a glass roof. The factory building is divided into 16 sections, connected with each other by sliding doors. In each of the sections a crew of 120 men works. At the southeastern corner of the inner city is a blast furnace where iron ore is melted. The western part of the inner city is occupied by residential quarters for the population of the inner city and by administrative buildings. At the northwestern corner of the inner city but outside the barbed wire fence, two large transformers receive electric current produced in power plants on the Ufa River. The current is carried from the transformers by high-tension lines along the northern side of the supply and storage buildings into the northeastern-most section of the factory building, which contains the switch station for the factory.
6. Outside the inner city and about five kilometers from it, in a forest, a small camouflaged airfield is situated. Planes assembled in the factory are parked and flown off from there.
7. From the railroad station, a good road leads to a place situated about six kilometers from the inner city. There a sort of underground pipeline starts, which leads along the southern part of the inner city to underground reservoirs situated outside the southeastern corner of the inner city; the reservoirs also are camouflaged by woods. Gasoline and crude oil is delivered to Atomgrad in heavy tank trucks apparently of American origin. According to the inscriptions they bear, they come mostly from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The trucks arrive first at the station, where the freight formalities are attended to; then they take the road to the pipeline, through which gasoline and oil are pumped into the reservoirs.
8. In the factory, a variety of war equipment is produced and assembled. Each of the 16 sections produces or assembles a certain item or parts needed for a certain item. The entire production program is ruled by old German production plans, from the year 1942, which the Russians found in the former Elbe shipyards at Ubigau, near Dresden. Following are the main items which are being produced or assembled:

Assembled:

Messerschmitt 110 planes

Jet-propelled planes

Transport planes

Heavy trucks

Produced:

Tanks (exclusively German Tigers)

Armored smoke throwers (Panzernebelwerfer) (These are like tanks without

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turrets, armored at the front with 4 heavy machine guns and provided at the rear with a smoke-throwing apparatus of rocket-type with 8 tubes.)

Flame throwers

Motorized artillery (no further information available)

Machine guns MG 42 (in the German Army called "fleisige Johann")

Radar equipment (no further information available)

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9. Source, [REDACTED] was not in a position to obtain information on the volume of production or assembly of the various items. The only statement he can make in this connection is that about 200 to 250 Tiger tanks and smoke throwers were produced per week (total for both items). The equipment produced was sent by rail in the direction of Moscow. One train, consisting of 25 to 30 freight cars and two coaches, left the station every evening in the direction of Moscow and one similar train arrived daily in the morning from the direction of Moscow. (Asked how that is possible on a single-track railway, source expressed his belief that there are switch points alongside the line.) Part of the equipment was shipped in the direction of Moscow by heavy trucks, apparently of American origin. All products left the factory in the same way, with the exception of planes, which left from the airfield near the city.

10. The factory was built mainly from equipment and machines dismantled in Germany, including equipment from Witt Eisen- und Stahlverarbeitung (GmbH), Chemnitz, and the steel foundry at Freital [REDACTED] Comment: Stahlsche Gusstahl-Werke). Production in Atomgrad is maintained principally through the delivery of material and parts from enterprises in Germany. Among the enterprises furnishing material, source cites the following:

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Rubber equipment from Buna, Schkopau

Landing gear for aircraft from Lindner AG, Ammendorf

Springs, blocks, and other equipment for machine guns from an unidentified firm in Chemnitz, and from the former Elbe shipyards in Ullrich, near Dresden.

Compasses for smoke throwers from Koch & Sternel, Dresden. Source

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11. Attached are two sketches of the location and lay-out of Atomgrad. [REDACTED] Comment: The existence of a town called Atomgrad, where Russian and/or German specialists are engaged in war production, has been reported without further detail by three other independent sources. The source [REDACTED] sources of the other reports agree in the belief that the name of the town has nothing to do with the nature of the work being done there.)

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